

## THE STORY OF '98. CONTINUED FROM SECOND PAGE.

### END OF THE REBELLION.

#### Battle of Ballinahinch—Rout of the Insurgents—The Execution of Gen. Munro.

Quite undismayed by the cruel fate which had overtaken McCracken and his followers, the men of Down resolved to strike a blow for freedom. They assembled in the little town of Saintfield to the number of 5,000 men, and chose as their commander a trusty patriot named Henry Munro. Munro was a man of proved courage and, as we shall see presently, of exceptional military skill; but he labored under one great disadvantage. His instincts were so chivalrous that they compelled him to treat the rebels as honorable foes, and not as they deserved to be treated—viz., as ravenous beasts of prey, whom it would be a national service to kill on sight.

This is a fault that can be found with the general body of the United Irishmen and their leaders. Their methods were often better suited to the days of knight errantry than to modern warfare. When we recollect that Ireland was overrun at this epoch by a horde of brutal soldiers, in whose vicinity no man's life and no woman's honor was safe—that murder, lust and incendiarism stalked through the land—we marvel at the patience of the peasantry. Perhaps it is his lively sense of things spiritual, his firm belief that his enemy is in the hands of God, which make the Celt often resigned to sufferings that would crush others to earth or drive them to madness.

After a few preliminary skirmishes at Portaferry and Newtownards Munro captured Ballinahinch, which he occupied with his men. On hearing the news the authorities took steps to crush this formidable enemy. Two large forces, conspicuous among which were the Argyshire Highlanders, were dispatched simultaneously from Belfast and Downpatrick, with orders to effect a junction and move upon Ballinahinch. This maneuver Munro endeavored to prevent. He sent a body of guardsmen to intercept the redcoats as they advanced from Downpatrick, but unfortunately it was too late. Before the rebels were well on their way the enemy had already reached headquarters.

Munro now divided his men into three bodies. The first was stationed on Windmill Hill, which is a sharp eminence on the northern line of Ballinahinch. The second occupied the town itself, while the third, which he commanded in person, took a position on the hill of Ednevady, in the rear of the town. Having come within artillery range of Windmill Hill Gens. Nugent and Barber opened fire, whereupon Capt. McCance, who with a small body of rebels lay in ambush a short distance off, poured a deadly fusillade upon the gunners. This unexpected volley compelled the redcoats to retreat for a time; but fresh troops were hurried up and they attacked McCance in overwhelming numbers.

They then turned attention to Ballinahinch itself, training all their cannon upon the town and shelling it to such effect that Munro determined to abandon it for the moment and concentrate all his forces upon Ednevady Hill. A messenger was straightway dispatched to McCance bidding him to retreat; but McCance, who possessed more of the intrepidity than the discipline of a soldier, refused to evacuate his position, and sent the messenger back for reinforcements, bidding him tell Gen. Munro that he would die rather than give way an inch to the "bloody redcoats." Indeed, so bravely obstinate was he that it was only under imperative orders and after many fruitless messages that he reluctantly gave the signal to retire.

The royalists now occupied Windmill Hill and Ballinahinch, while the United Irishmen were drawn up in battle array in the slopes of Ednevady. For some time the former remained inactive, but at last they summoned up courage enough to charge the rebels. So warm, however, was the reception they received that they quickly fell back upon Ballinahinch, considering that they had had quite enough fighting for one day. Soon the darkness came and immedi-

ately the soldiers gave themselves up to drunkenness, violence and rapine of every description. For a long time the streets of Ballinahinch rang with the groans of men and the agonized screams of women. Then silence fell. The brutal redcoats were at last overcome by their potations and excesses, and the majority of them lay dead drunk in the gutter.

This news having been brought to the insurgent camp, a council of war was held. It was the general opinion that a midnight descent upon Ballinahinch would be irresistible, and that the enemy was absolutely at their mercy. Unfortunately Munro's delicate sense of honor would not permit him to take advantage of the royalists' helpless condition. No plea or argument could induce him to give orders to advance. His officers sullenly left his tent, inwardly cursing his chivalry, and one division of his army, amounting to close on 1,000 men, were so disgusted that they quitted the camp and dispersed. Munro's foolish magnanimity seems all the more remarkable when contrasted with the conduct of the royalists under similar circumstances. Not only did the latter never hesitate to attack the insurgents when

reached the cannon's mouth and piked the artillermen. In the meantime McCance and Townsend had advanced on the opposite side with equal success, driving the royalists before them like a flock of sheep. The result was a complete rout. The redcoats flung down their arms and fled helter-skelter out of the town in the Belfast direction, leaving the insurgents in complete possession of Ballinahinch.

Here again occurred one of those trivial mischances which followed the fortunes of the '98 men with strange persistence, and helped in no small measure to win the cause. When the British commander, Gen. Nugent, lost all hope of rallying his men he gave his trumpeters orders to sound a retreat, whereupon the shrill blast of bugles rang over the bloody battlefield. Half-blinded by the smoke that filled the narrow streets, the insurgents, who were mostly simple peasants, thought the enemy had just received strong reinforcements and that the bugle blasts they heard were the signal for a charge. A panic seized them suddenly and they turned about and fled. While, therefore, the military were running north as fast



Major General John R. Brooke, United States Army.

unarmed and carousing, but it was a favorite device of theirs to send barrels of whisky into the insurgents' camp, so that the resultant drunkenness might render them an easy prey. At sunrise on June 13 the insurgents fell into ranks, and Gen. Munro passed along the line, urging them to strenuous action. As the flag of green was proudly unfurled a deafening cheer arose, which reverberated along the hillsides and startled the royalists in Ballinahinch. Munro divided his men into two bodies, one of which he led in person against the eastern side of Ballinahinch, while the other, under Capt. McCance and Townsend, assaulted it upon the opposite side. Munro was astute enough to place very little reliance on the few antiquated pieces of artillery he possessed, or, indeed, upon the musket which about a fourth of his men carried. He saw that the pike would win or lose the day. Accordingly he drew up his pikemen and ordered them to charge the guns behind which the royalists were drawn up in a solid square.

According to the usages of warfare such exploits as the capture of artillery are generally reserved for cavalry. There is no feat that requires such dashing courage and resolution as for infantry to take possession of the enemy's guns at the bayonet's point. With a thundering "Faugh-a-Balagh!" they broke into a run; and though hundreds were mowed down by showers of canister and grape-shot they never ceased till they

as their legs and horses could carry them, the rebels were running south in the direction of Downpatrick. The former were the first to recover from their panic, and were astonished on halting to perceive their dreaded enemies hurrying away from Ballinahinch. This unexpected spectacle renewed their courage. The Twenty-second Light Dragoons and the yeomen received orders to pursue the fleeing foe and instantly put spurs to their steeds. Soon they were riding among the unfortunate insurgents, whom they cut down mercilessly with their long sabers. No quarter was given and above 500 perished.

Munro fell back upon Ednevady Hill, where, with a band of faithful followers, he held out for some time, but he was soon captured. The usual farce of a trial was held, and he was found guilty of high treason. He was hanged in front of his own house in his native town of Ballinahinch; then his head was cut off, empaled on a pike and placed as a warning sign above the market place. With poor Munro's death the rebellion ended in the North.

Mr. Patrick O'Hogan presided at the last meeting of the Desertrmartin Branch of the '98 Centenary Association, and said the soldiers now wearing the United States uniform were the descendants of the men butchered by England in Ireland during 1798. He denounced the proposed Anglo-American alliance.

### IRELAND'S ASSIZES.

#### Light Work for the Judges—No Serious Crime Reported Anywhere in the Country.

The Clare Commission of Assizes was opened at Ennis on Friday last before Mr. Justice O'Brien. The Kilrush bribery charges formed the only important business, and Michael Cullinan and Michael Griffin, who were found guilty, were sentenced to one month's imprisonment, and were ordered to be dismissed from the office of Poor Law Guardian and disqualified from holding any public office for seven years.

The Summer Assizes were opened for Meath before the Lord Chief Baron. He congratulated the grand jury on the peace and order of the county. In the Duleek burning case the prisoners were acquitted.

Sir Peter O'Brien, Lord Chief Justice, opened the assizes at Nenagh, Tipperary. In his address to the grand jury his lordship said that he had much pleasure in congratulating them on the satisfactory condition of the North Riding of Tipperary.

Mr. Justice Madden, addressing the grand jury of Westmeath, said their duties would be very light, as there was only one case of a serious nature to go before them.

On Saturday Mr. Justice Kenny opened the County Longford Assizes, and congratulated the grand jury on the continued immunity of the county from serious crime.

The criminal calendar for the Waterford Summer Assizes is an exceptionally light one, and the business of the legal lights will not consume more than a few hours. The city presents a clean sheet, not a single case being listed for hearing. In the County Court only one case of assault, arising out of a drunken row, will occupy the attention of the court. The appeal cases are few, and will not take long to dispose of. The city and county have both been noted for the absence of serious crime, and the fact has been commented on by the various judges.

#### MICHAEL DWYER.

#### A Monument to Be Raised Over the Irish Patriot's Grave at Sydney, Australia.

A cablegram from Sydney says: "The celebration to-day of the centenary of the Irish rising of 1798 was very largely attended. The remains of the well-known insurgent chief, Michael Dwyer, and his wife, were exhumed at the old Devonshire-street cemetery and reinterred at the Waverley cemetery, where the foundation stone of a national monument was laid. The body of the wife was in a remarkable state of preservation, due largely to her great age (95) when she died. The features and hair were perfectly recognizable. Mr. Dwyer was buried 73 years, and his wife 38 ago. Speeches were delivered in eulogy of the heroism and patriotism of the leaders of the rising.

"Over the vault containing the remains of Michael Dwyer and his wife an imposing monument will be raised. We learn from the Sydney Freeman that a fine site has been secured in the new Catholic portion of the Waverley cemetery. Standing, as it will, over 30 feet high, the monument should be a conspicuous and commanding object in the cemetery. Roughly estimated, the monument will cost \$10,000. The tall Celtic cross and the principal inscription panel are to be pure Carrara marble. The rest is to be of polished trachyte. The monument is to cover 30 feet by 24 feet. The flat portion immediately over the vault is to be in mosaic, and will serve as a place for those to kneel who visit the tomb in a spirit of patriotism and reverence. It is estimated that the monument will take twelve months to complete.

The potato crop around Banagher is seriously injured by blight. The effects of the disease are not apparent in the early gardens and in the loamy soils bordering on the Shannon. One week ago the farmers were hopeful of a bountiful potato crop, but the dread disease dissipated their expectations.

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